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464 and 465, to make a comparison of the immorality of India and the West from which a long life in India would have saved him. It is a striking fact that while India, because of its numberless gods, has never indulged in profanity, it has made up for this by its obscenity. There is no land on earth where obscene language has become so common, both among men and women, in the vernaculars of the country. Dr. Pratt's missionary never overheard obscene stories among the people, we are told! There is not one missionary in a hundred that knows practically anything of the obscene terms of an Indian vernacular. They are not in the line of his studies, thank God. But the one man whom I have known, who made a specialty of that study, said that the language of the common people was unspeakably filthy. Indians themselves confess this with shame. The life of India is unfortunately much saturated with this gross vice; syphilis holds 75 per cent of the people in its grip. Even the religion of the people has consecrated this sin, and in some cases, uses it as a part of its worship. In the Indian Christian Church more members are excommunicated for this sin than for all others combined; and more Mission agents fall by the way through this one vice than through all others put together. It is the tropical sin and eats like a cancer into the life of the people. There are few voices to protest against it among the people. This sin and vice is bad enough in the West, but let not our author send Americans to India to study lessons in chastity or in virtue!

I would not, however, close this review without expressing the happy conviction that Dr. Pratt has in this volume furnished one of the most readable, interesting, illuminating and wholesome books which I know upon the deep things of Indian life and thought.

J. P. JONES.

*Government and Politics of the German Empire.* By FRITZ-KONRAD KRÜGER. New York: World Book Company. 1915. Pp. xi, 340.

This is the first volume of a new series of government handbooks to be prepared under the joint editorship of Prof. D. P. B. Barrows and Prof. T. H. Reed of the University of California, which are planned "for the double purpose of supplying college classes in government with handy, authoritative texts and of furnishing the public with convenient volumes for reading and reference." It is proposed to include "the important govern-

ments not only of Europe but of other parts of the world and certain colonial dependencies."

The present volume dealing with Germany begins with a brief account of the development of the German Empire and the constitution. It includes a description of the Reichstag and the Bundesrat; of the Kaiser, his powers and personality; of the Chancellor with a brief discussion of the five men who have held that position since 1871; of the law-making process, finances, the army and navy, the government of Alsace-Lorraine, the judicial system, the parliamentary history, the foreign policy, and the colonial dependencies. The field covered is so broad and the space devoted to it is so limited that the result is hardly more than an outline of the subject. But the brevity makes for compactness and convenience of reference, while considerable latitude is allowed for the expression of the personal bias of the author, which adds to the interest without detracting from the value of the account. Each chapter is followed by a short bibliography, mainly of the best English works, while thirty-two pages at the end are devoted to a critical bibliography, containing the more important German as well as English references.

Altogether this first volume is a well-written piece of work and promises well for the rest of the series.

*Economic Aspects of the War. Neutral Rights Belligerent Claims and American Commerce in the years 1914-1915.* By EDWIN T. CLAPP. Yale University Press. 1915. Pp. xiv, 340.

If this book by Professor Clapp were merely a compilation of facts, it would be an extremely valuable one for students especially of international law; for it brings together in compact form material which is scattered through newspaper files and other sources which are inconvenient of use. But it is something more than a compilation of facts. It is a very suggestive study of the modifications made in international law during this present war as they affect American commerce and a discussion of the justification of those modifications. Among the questions discussed is that of the export of foodstuffs; the usage in regard to it under established international law; the changes introduced by the August and by the October British Order in Council; and the *Wilhelmina* case. At no time since the war began has England allowed American foodstuffs to go through to Germany, a